Global Warming

353. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate steps are not being taken by the International community to check global warming inspite of resolution passed at the first Earth Summit at Rio-de-Janeiro five years ago; and

(b) what is India's role in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) At the first Earth Summit at Rio-de-Janeiro, a multilateral treaty to check global warming was opened for signatures. This was the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change. The Convention entered into force from March 21, 1994. The Convention enjoins upon the developed countries to aim to return to their 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the year 2000. According to scientific assessments, these commitments are inadequate to check global warming.

(b) The Government of India is concerned at the non-implementation of commitments made by developed countries at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to assist the developing countries with new and additional financial resources and technology for promoting ecologically sustainable development. At various environment related international fora, India has been proposing transfer of financial resources and environmentally sound technologies to the developing countries as per the provisions of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Funds for pollution control

354. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allotted for pollution control are being consistently under utilised inspite of the fact that the rate of pollution is increasing at an alarming rate; and

(b) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) In past, there has been under utilisation of funds for prevention and control of pollution. However, as a result of various measures taken by the Government during the preceding financial year (1996-97), the actual expenditure has been more than the allocated budget in the implementation of various schemes in this sector.

Silting of Chilka lake

355. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the largest lake in Orissa, i.e. Chilka lake is silting very rapidly; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to desilt the lake?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of 112.30 lakhs was provided to the Government of Orissa by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests between 1988-89 and 1990-91 for soil conservation in the catchment area, habitat improvement of Nalabana, database creation and generating awareness. The Tenth Finance Commission has recommended an amount of Rs. 27 crores to the Government of Orissa for preservation of Chilka lake under Special problem Grant. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Commission. Accordingly an action plan for Chilka